

R E M A R K S

New claims 21-25 are added by this response. Support for new claims 21-25 is found on pages 4 and 5 of the specification.

Claim 19 was objected to because Line 2, "and/ar" should be changed to --and/or--. Accordingly "and/ar" on line 2 in claim 19 has been amended to read --and/or--. In view of the above remarks and amendment to claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claims 11-13, 16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Maue et al US 5,785,532 on the grounds set forth in the Office Action.

The present claimed invention recites an instrument panel for a motor vehicle comprising at least one electronic component which is arranged on a carrier, and/or one plug part, and electrical leads which are conductively connected to the electronic component and/or the plug part. The carrier (3, 10, 19) has protruding contact pins (6, 13, 22, 23) which are connected to the electronic component (4, 11, 21) and/or to the plug part (14, 20), and the electrical leads (7, 15, 24) are attached to the contact pins (6, 13, 22, 23). *d. 11*

The present invention relates to an instrument panel for a motor vehicle with at least one electronic component arranged on a support. The electronic component has electrical lines connected thereto. The electrical lines are connected in a conducting

manner to the electronic component. The goal of the present claimed invention is to produce an instrument panel that may be fit as easily and inexpensively as possible. The present claimed invention accomplishes the above stated goal by having the support including protruding contact pins having electrical lines fastened thereto. The contact pins are also connected to the electronic component.

Maue shows a support (114) with a multiplicity of pins (130) and electrical lines (80, 82). The electrical lines (80, 82) are fastened to the connectors (22, 24, 26). However, Maue et al neither disclose nor suggest having the electrical lines (80, 82) connected directly to the pins (130), as in the present claimed invention. Additionally, in Maue et al. the pins (130) protruding from the support (114) are not connected to electronic components as in the present claimed invention. Rather, Maue et al states that the pins (130) are connected to the connectors (22, 24, 26). This is unlike the present claimed invention which states that the protruding contact pins are connected to the electronic component.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is not anticipated by Maue et al. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that the rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claims 11-13 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Viertel et al (US 5,203,623) for the reasons stated in the Office Action.

Viertel et al. discloses a sun visor for a motor vehicle with an illuminating device. The bulbs (34) are conventionally soldered to electrical lines (32, 33). The electrical lines are also connected to a microswitch (29). The microswitch is fitted onto pins (28), and in this way is fastened to a trough (11).

However, the pins (28) in Viertel et al. are not electrically conductive as in the present claimed invention. Viertel et al neither disclose nor suggest having protruding contact pins that are electrically conductive as in the present claimed invention. Thus, the pins (28) of Viertel et al are not the same as the contact pins of the present claimed invention because as both the electronic components and electrical leads are connected thereto, the contact pins are electrically conductive.

In view of the above remarks it is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is not anticipated by Viertel et al. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that the rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Viertel et al (US 5,203,623) on the grounds set forth in the Office Action.

Viertel et al is cited for disclosing pins having electrical leads soldered thereto thus making it obvious to wind the lead ends around the pins prior to soldering. However, as discussed above, Viertel et al neither suggest nor disclose contact pins that are conductively connected to the electrical lines and the electronic components as in the present claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Viertel et al adds nothing that would render the present claimed invention as unpatentable. As claim 14 is dependent upon now allowable claim 11, claim 14 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 11. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that the rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Additional comments on the references cited and correctly not relied upon by the Examiner appear below.

Gorman (US 3,740,693) discloses pin-like electrical terminals (12). Electrical lines (108) are fastened by the standard wire wrap method to these terminals (12; 106, 107). However, the terminals of Gorman are not shown directly connected to electronic components as in the present claimed invention.


Additionally, Walter (US 3,668,606) also shows wire wrap pins (25) which are electrically connecting elements (30). However, the terminals (25) of Walter are also not directly connected to electronic components as in the present claimed invention.

In the event there are further issues remaining in any respect the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed

to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.


Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 11, 2003.

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